

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 15-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 8-14 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein, and claims 15-18 are added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-7 are allowed. Moreover, claims 15-18, at least for their dependence on allowable claim 1, are also allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/103(a) over WO 94/18359. The cancellation of claims 8-14 renders their rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/103(a) is respectfully requested.

As discussed above, claims 15-18, at least for their dependence on allowable claim 1, are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 and 15-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 19, 2005

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